

" Does she like Conrad *at all* ? " gives another instance of the device so common among the children of soliciting the favour of one person by being ready to be hostile to another. Conrad himself has recourse to the same dodge when on 29.11.26 he seeks to curry favour with Jane by expressing his hostility to Lena. The implication clearly is "It is *she* I hate and you I love/*

d. *Feelings of Inferiority, Superiority or General Anxiety*

The main descriptive character which the majority of these incidents have in common is that the hostility shown had no immediate or obvious stimuli. Frank and Cecil, for instance, on many days displayed a hostile and aggressive mood from the moment they entered the schoolroom. Both these boys, as well as Benjie, Conrad, Dexter, Joseph and to a less extent Harold and Theobald, were liable to become spiteful and perverse at any moment, without *apparent* provocation. (This characteristic grew less in every case with experience in school. It was very noticeably less in Frank during his second year.)

In the quotation from Bridges included under the present heading, she speaks of children sometimes " hitting or pinching for fun ", behaviour which is distinguished from " hitting in anger " by " the lack of a provoking cause ". Now hitting " for fun " did occur with my children too. It is naturally recognisable by the child's manner and facial expression.

But the instances of unprovoked aggression quoted here were not " for fun ". The children showed, by gesture, tone of voice or facial expression (even when the attack was merely verbal) that they were much in earnest, and were feeling a definite emotion of fear or anger or hatred or contempt at the time.

It is true that those instances where one might use the description " hitting for fun " are not *sharply*

divided off
from aggression of the moody type illustrated
here. The
two types merge at their boundaries. And
this I believe
is true just because there are deeper aspects of
the " hitting
for fun " than that too simple and superficial
description
suggests. The " fun" element, the
laughter or air
of amused inquiry accompanying the more
playful attack,
is certainly in part a direct expression of the
sadistic
pleasure of attacking ; but it also has the
function of disarm-
ing the person attacked, persuading him that
" there's no